Filing Date: August 31, 2000

CHEMICAL DISPENSING SYSTEM FOR SEMICONDUCTOR WAFER PROCESSING Title:

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-35. (Canceled)

- (Currently Amended) A device comprising: 36.
 - a dispenser configured to release a chemical toward an edge bead; and a splash controller concentrically positioned at least partially around said dispenser, and physically unattached from the edge bead, [[and]] the splash controller being configured to draw the chemical toward said splash controller,

wherein said splash controller is configured to generate a gas pressure around the edge bead that is lower than an ambient gas pressure, and wherein said splash controller is configured to physically intercept the chemical.

- 37. (Previously Presented) The device in claim 36, wherein the splash controller is around the edge bead.
- (Previously Presented) The device of claim 36, wherein the splash controller completely 38. surrounds said dispenser.
- 39. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 36, wherein the dispenser has a diameter smaller than a diameter of the splash controller.
- 40. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 36, wherein said dispenser is configured to release a chemical on a first side of a wafer and a second side of the wafer toward an edge bead, wherein the splash controller completely surrounds said dispenser.
- (Currently Amended) A device comprising: 41.
- a dispenser configured to release a chemical toward an edge bead on a semiconductor substrate; and

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 - EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

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a splash controller including a vacuum port, wherein the vacuum port eompletely surrounds is concentrically positioned about the dispenser, wherein the vacuum port is configured to generate a gas pressure around the edge bead and the dispenser, the generated gas pressure being sufficiently lower than an ambient gas pressure to draw the chemical toward the splash controller, wherein the dispenser has a smaller diameter than the vacuum port, and wherein the splash controller is configured to physically intercept the chemical.